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## REV. JOHN MITCHELL.

Died, at Attleboro, March 14, Rev. John Mitchell, pastor of the Baptist Church in Housick, N. Y., aged 52. Bro. Mitchell came to this country from England about 17 years ago, and first settled in the town of Danbury Conn., where he continued to labor for four years. During this period he became more extensively and favorably known, and his services were brought into more general demand. Previous to leaving D. he received various flattering invitations to more inviting fields of labor, among which was one which he finally accepted from the city of New York when he became the pastor of the Cannon St. Bap. church, with which he continued several years. His labors in the city were highly appreciated by the pastors and churches, and his final removal was the occasion of much regret. Urged by several influential brethren, among whom was Dr. Going, and by his own sense of duty, he removed from N. York to Michigan, where he became a successful pioneer of the Baptist church. He was a man to exert an extensive and salutary influence among the infant churches of that State, and it is doubtless a great measure to his instrumentality that the present commendable efficiency of the Michigan Baptists is to be attributed, he being one of the originators of the Michigan Baptist Convention. But the unfavorable climate, in connection with his multiplied labors in a few years prostrated his health, and he felt obliged to return to the East. After his return, he labored with great success for a season, as pastor of the Baptist church in Clyde, in western New York, where he labored more than a hundred joyful converts. But his health was not restored, and he came still further east seeking to invigorate his prostrated energies, and after a short suspension of ministerial labor, he again resumed the work he loved so well, in Housick, Rensselaer Co., N. Y., something more than a year since. In the mean time his health has been sinking, and early in the past winter he preached for the last time. As a last resort, he came to Attleboro about five weeks since to make trial of the facilities for rest afforded here. For some time flattering hopes were entertained that he might receive essential benefit, but these gratifying prospects were suddenly cut off by an apoplectic attack, under which he rapidly declined to death, and he died as he lived, a Christian, and the church of Christ in his removal has sustained a loss not easily to be repaired. His preaching was of a peculiarly evangelical character, and he was bold and uncompromising in the defence of truth. But above all, he was characterized by meekness and humility. 'Let me not,' said he, 'be eulogized after my death, but let me simply be designated a sinner saved by grace.' The cause of Christ and the glorious gospel, engaged his thoughts and utterance in his last moments giving the most convincing proof that his heart was in the work to which he had devoted his life, and in which he had literally worn himself out. He left a large family, consisting of a wife and ten children to mourn and feel his loss. A good man has fallen, and on whom shall his mantle rest? J. C. R.

## WAR IN INDIA.

The London Inquirer, of Feb. 20, thus comments on the late dreadful slaughter of the Sikhs in India: 'We are hardly in a condition to pronounce an opinion to what extent the invasion of the Sikhs is a natural consequence of the previous unjust and unwise policy of our Government in supporting Runjeet Singh, or how far the Governor General had reasonable grounds to anticipate the event, and might have been better prepared for it. In respect to this particular transaction, we have been the aggressors, and what has occurred ought to be a great lesson to our people, as to the military spirit, and the system of maintaining right by violence. Our contemporaries are, in general, disposed to raise a song of triumph on our brilliant victories; and our rulers were pleased to order the arrival of the news to be celebrated by firing. We think, however, that the feeling of the country will hardly go with these things. We have had to resist the incursion of a barbarous tribe. The most powerful nation might be surprised at a disadvantage, and subjected to momentary reverses. But the Sikhs, and our being able to reduce them to submission, not one amongst us entertains a doubt. The question, then, is, respecting the cost to us of the operation. If we had accomplished our object, as entirely by means of verbal representations, there would have been cause for rejoicing. As it is, our object is yet but ill accomplished, and that by a desperate and bloody struggle, which has filled many families with mourning, and which exhibits a dreadful spectacle of unrelenting feeling, and of the miseries which evil passions can inflict on human beings,—and this is a joyful fact to be celebrated and made the foundation of pride! There is, we think, an attempt on the part of our rulers to cherish and keep alive the military spirit among us, which they fear is declining. They rejoice to have this victory to celebrate. We tell them the class is large, and is increasing rapidly, which they can arouse to no sympathy in such events. The descriptions of battles which were to rouse all the puerile propensities of our nature, now excite only horror and the attempt to magnify the courage of our troops by comparing them with bull-dogs and lions, only shows us what a low and bestial-like attitude this courage is, and assists us to put it in its proper place among human qualities. If man be a rational animal, his indifference ought to be settled by reason. If the laws of his nature make his happiness dependent on justice, benevolence, and piety, his public as well as private relations ought to be regulated by these virtues; and governors have no right to put their subjects into situations which temporarily convert civilized and humane men into wild or furious beasts. Events like the late battles are horrible and disgusting, and the feeling of civility can no longer hide their real character from the penetrating eyes of an enlightened public. Glory shines in vain, for her features are distorted with every bad passion, and her garments are stained with the blood of her victims. Our deeds of arms are not Christian, and can have no sanction from any who seek the guide of his conduct in the actions and precepts of Jesus. These were meant to be the real, not merely nominal, guides of all true disciples, and in vain we make professions of faith or hope, whilst we set aside such things as are opposed to precepts of Jesus, unworthy as much of our national nature as of our religious principles.

The following is additional to the foregoing: 'The British prints call the result of the battle a victory; but they have made no prisoners, and the Sikh camp, according to their own statement, was undisturbed and blew up, as it was taken possession of by the English.' A correspondent of the North American, remarks in a letter from Paris, 'The whole matter looks more like a surprise than a conquest, like a forced defence than an attack, or the English would not have remained encamped during the night, while the balls were whizzing over their heads, marching out early in the morning to attack the enemy for the fourth time.'

Three previous attacks had been repulsed with heavy slaughter, and after the conquest nothing but a few guns, (it is not stated whether they were spiked or not), remained in the hands of the victors. This is a sad account of military triumph, and the next advance from India will show us that we have not yet heard the worst of it.

Our New Acquisitions.—The Sikh territory, on the west coast of the Punjab, which by the Government's proclamation of the 13th inst., has been annexed to the British dominions, is estimated to yield an annual revenue of seven and a half lakhs of rupees, or £75,000 sterling [Madras Advertiser].

The above significant paragraph is quoted without comment in the English papers.

## FAST DAY.

We are glad to observe that our brethren in the ministry do not permit this important occasion to pass without improvement in the direction of civil, social or political evils. The pastor at Tremont Temple preached on the subject of a Corrupted Judiciary, of which the following is an outline Text, Isaiah 53: 4—'None calleth for justice; nor any pleadeth for truth.' Doctrine: When the public voice fails to sustain the judiciary of a land, the sin of the people have reached a fearful point. Notice, 1. The indications of corruption reached that point are manifest in our history. 2. In matters of social justice. Nations, Indian tribes, and slaves enumerated. 3. The exceeding guilt hereby manifested. 4. A narrow and selfish indifference to the well-being of society. 5. A criminal sympathy with the vile. 6. A disposition to push the licentiousness of crime to the overthrow of the government of God, and the demolition of the bulwarks of equity among men. Reflections: 1. Amendment here is the fast that God requires. 2. All the good should second the demand of God. 3. Those who refuse to call for justice and those who refuse to execute justice, justice will call for.

## PASTOR'S ADDRESS ON RECEIVING MEMBERS.

[We give below a part of the communication of our correspondent in Philadelphia, omitted last week for want of room. The address is printed in the form of a tract.]

Pastor's address to members on their uniting with the church.—I was present, a few Sabbaths since, at one of your churches during which you were interesting service of receiving members by the hand of fellowship; and after the pastor had presented his hand to each one, accompanying the same with an expression of his pleasure, and soliciting for each much spiritual enjoyment and growth in grace in their new connection, he placed in their hand a printed note, of which the following is a copy:—

## PASTOR'S ADDRESS.

My Dear Brother,—You are now a member of the church of Christ, and entitled to all the privileges of the household of faith. As your pastor, I do sincerely desire that the union may advance your usefulness and religious enjoyment. But permit me to say, that the attainment of so desirable a result will depend much on a strict regard to your covenant engagements. Trust yourself and take up your cross daily. Confess Christ before men. Live a holy and devoted life. Attend to church and family prayer. 'Search the Scriptures.' Be careful not to give offence. Be slow to wrath. Confess your faults. Do not despise those who offend against you, but love the brethren. Attend the meetings of the church as far as practicable. Do all you can to exalt your Saviour by the gifts which he has bestowed, and by the testimony which you hold as your Lord's steward. Should a time of adversity come and the aid of the church be required, it will be cheerfully given. When you are afflicted, let your family, your pastor and brethren will be ready to visit you. Should you be called to leave the church for a season, take with you a certificate of your standing, and feel free to report your residence and state as an convert. 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.' 'Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to whom be glory both now and for ever. Amen.'

## Your affectionate pastor.

For sustaining the worship of Almighty God, paying off existing claims against this church, and other incidental expenses, a considerable amount of money must necessarily be raised.

Every member on uniting with the church, covenants or agrees to contribute to the support of the church, and to pay its proportion of the expenses. The sum required of every member for this year, is 12-1/2 cents a month, or \$1.50 per year.

As there may be some who are unable to pay even this amount, it shall be the duty of the deacons to pay it for them, out of the benevolent fund of the church, that every member may have the privilege of aiding in liquidating the expenses of the house of God.

Should any members perseveringly refuse to contribute to the support of the church, they are no longer to be considered as members, and they are not to be admitted to the communion of the church.

No member can be entitled to a letter of dismission while in arrears to the church, unless the payment thereof be excused.

Other benevolent objects are frequently presented for the sympathy and assistance of God's people, and where the union plan can be adopted by individual members, it will very generally enable them to contribute liberally, without suffering any inconvenience.

Various plans have been suggested for the purpose, of which the following are a few:—

1. Lay by something, whether much or little, every Lord's day morning.

2. Devote one-tenth of all you receive to the service of God.

3. Deposit in some consecrated place, one cent week for every object that you think worthy of your notice.

The following are some of those objects which claim our attention:—Domestic Missions; Foreign Missions; Bible Society; Publication Society; Sunday School Society; Education Society, &c.

I was so much delighted with this arrangement, and so well pleased with the address and the directions for raising funds, that I procured a copy and have forwarded it, as above, for publication, with a desire that other churches, which have not as yet adopted a similar arrangement, may be induced to follow an example at once so easily to be comprehended and one that must end in good.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—Can you, or any of your intelligent correspondents, enlighten my mind by defining the word 'pastor'? what is its meaning? It is affirmed, by some, that the duties of a pastor are simply to preach the gospel on the Sabbath; this is very important; but by this is all his duty, may not style him 'pastor' when a church invites a minister to settle with them, let it be announced that such a church has invited the Rev. A. B. to become their pastor.

The writer of this has been under the pastoral care of Dr. Baldwin, and others of a like character, who were in the habit of performing what has been called pastoral labor. I well remember the venerated Baldwin; he knew his people; knew their residences, and could call every child in his congregation by name; and they loved and venerated him. But times have changed; people have changed; every thing of a temporal nature is changing, and of course ministers must change.

—Some of our ministers maintain with spirit their right to change. To expect that a man of letters, of refinement, of taste, a man well suited to the fastidious customs of the present day, can associate with every thing and anything that constitutes a city congregation, is expecting altogether too much. The minister must live in the retirement of his study, where he can dig out treasures rich and precious; he must be away from the bustle and noise of the city in some quiet retreat, where he can study the beauties of nature, and come on Sabbath morning fresh and strong with a rich feast for his hearers.

This you will perceive, Messrs. Editors, is an 'innovation,' a 'change' why not, then, change the title, and let it be *preacher, not pastor*? I hope that a little light may be imparted on this subject to your readers.

Yours Readers.

## Washington.

Washington, April 2d, 1846.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—As my last letter did not appear in your paper of last week, I will recapitulate a few of the more important items of public business done by Congress.

The bill to raise two Regiments of Riflemen, having reference to the protection of emigrants to Oregon, and ultimately to the defence of that territory, was entirely changed in its features and object. It was suspected that several members of Congress, and some of their friends were expectants of office under it. A substitute was therefore moved and carried, that instead of new Regiments and new officers the executive should be authorized to increase the number of privates in the army up to a given amount.

The bill making appropriations for rivers and harbors has passed the House by a respectable majority, but not without severe and unyielding opposition from the South, on the ground of its alleged unconstitutionality, and its tendency to create the necessity for a Tariff.

The 'Deficiency Bill,' as it is termed, appropriating a million and a half for various items connected with and growing out of the Texas campaign, has been passed. This, let it be borne in mind, is *extra*; it is over and above the estimates for the year. Those estimates were unusually large, and took into account the probable expenses of this Texas war—but yet they fell far short of the reality. For instance, one item in this extra bill is \$30,000 for transporting officers' baggage. Thirty thousand dollars! This is nearly one hundred dollars to each commissioned officer.

This, too, is in addition to his pay, to his travelling expenses, to his ordinary transportation, to his wine, oysters and cigars. This extra bill of one and a half million, is properly the first instalment, the nation pays for Texas; but it is only a drop before a shower, as the next two will convince us. I may remark that these Texas items were attacked, and motions were made by Mr. McMillan, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Culver, of New York, and Mr. Giddings, of Ohio, to strike them out, on the ground that these expenses were incurred in the prosecution of an unlawful war, and that the money was not lawfully expended, but a provision allowing either party to dissolve the connection by giving the other six months notice.

The 'Daily Evening Traveller' commenced a second volume on the 1st inst., in a new and beautiful dress. This is one of the best dailies with which we exchange, spirited, able, and of good moral tone. Messrs. Andrews and Panchard, are the editors. It is published at the low price of \$1.00 per annum.

Rev. Job Gaskell, has removed from Columbus, N. Y., to Valley Forge, Pa., and requests your correspondents to address him at the latter place.

Rev. John Blair, will be installed as pastor of the High Street Baptist church in Charleston, on Wednesday evening, April 15th, at seven o'clock. Sermon by Rev. N. Colver.

The Biblical Repository and Classical Review for April, edited by Prof. Agnew, has been received. It has seven original articles well chosen in the subjects of which they treat, besides numerous critical notices and literary intelligence all characterized with the usual ability of this set. Saxton & Kelt are the Boston publishers.

Rev. William S. Clapp was ordained to the work of the ministry in Albany, on the 17th ult. Sermon by Rev. Wm. Arthur, of Schenectady.

The Society of Rev. Mr. Coolidge, have voted to sell the land where their house now stands in Purchase street.

The President has sent in a message to Congress, recommending an increase of the army and navy.

A new literary paper at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., has been commenced, styled *The Locomotive*. Its various departments are distinguished by the headings 'Ladies Car,' 'Baggage Car,' 'Mail Car,' &c., a specimen of the times, truly.

Pastor's Hand Book, comprising Selections of Scripture for various occasions of official duty, with select Formulas for Marriage, Rules of Order for Churches, ecclesiastical and other assemblies, by Rev. W. W. Everett, has been published by L. Colby & Co., and sold by H. S. Washburn. We commend this little manual so easy of reference, so convenient for use, and so much needed to aid the appropriate performance of pastoral duties, to all for whom the author has done the acceptable work of preparing it. Our brethren in the ministry have but to examine it, to avail themselves of its help.

From Yucatan.—We have just seen letters from Campeche, which confirm all that had before been said of the willingness of the present Government of Mexico to concede every thing to the demands of Yucatan, and ratify those treaties, the violation of which led to the alienation of that department.

Mexico is pressing in her eagerness to win back Yucatan; but sensible men are fearful of the stability of the administration of Paredes, and they would have Yucatan disengaged from Mexico, in case the latter country should become yet more involved with foreign powers.

They talk of sending commissioners to the United States—some say, to treat of obtaining our protection; others, of an incorporation in our Union.

In every respect these letters, which are numerous, and late, confirm the intimations we have before been given of the radical disaffection of the Yucatecos from the Central Government of Mexico.

Congress meets on the 23d of April, until which time all will be left to conjecture as to the course of this former department of Mexico.—A. O. Picayune.

Melancholy.—On Tuesday last, Captain Samuel Whitney, of Lincolnville, his wife, and a young lad, attempted to cross our bay in an open boat, on their way to Castine. By some means or other, the boat was capsized, and Captain Whitney and his wife were drowned. The boat started from Duck Trap, and were upon its side of the bay when the accident occurred. The body of Captain Whitney has not as yet been found. Mrs. Whitney had quite a young child, which we suppose must have been with her. About one year since, Captain Whitney retired from the firm of S. & J. P. Whitney of New Orleans, with an ample fortune. He came north, married a lady at Castine, and there was before him every prospect of a continued life of worldly enjoyment. Truly, in the midst of life, we are in death.

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## DOMESTIC.

The Eastern Freshets.—There has been a destructive freshet on the Penobscot river. Bangor has been deluged with water, and immense quantities of property, and it is feared some lives, have been lost. The estimated loss is very large. A correspondent of the Traveller, writing under date of Bangor, March 29, says:—Yesterday was a strange Sunday in this city—the churches comparatively empty, some of them not opened at all, and a large proportion of the people in the streets, and then looking upon the scenes that were passing—some exerting themselves to secure property in peril. The ice began to snap and move on Saturday and the water to rise. Saturday night about midnight, it moved a small distance and formed a jam, which brought the water back into the principal business streets, rising nearly to the tops of the doors of the buildings. At this point it remained, through the day, Sunday, till about 7 o'clock, P. M., when the ice started below and all moved out. And in spite of the water fell away, and retired into the sea. The ice of course carried much that was valuable with it. The mills at the Corporation (as it is called) which had been rented the previous season for \$15,000; the bridge across the Penobscot; and numerous buildings along the way of the sewer, lumber &c. were carried away.

The Androscoggin River.—On this great disaster have occurred. At Livermore Falls, the bridge and all the mills have been swept off, together with houses, stores, and other buildings, to the number of seventeen; another account says twenty-seven. We learn also that all the bridges between Topham and Livermore, with the exception of that of Lewiston, have been carried away. They are four in number, and were located at Little River, South West Bend, East Turner, and North Turner.

In Buckfield, the 'Hall Bridge,' about half a mile east of the village, was destroyed. In Paris, the bridge across the Falls was carried away. At Mechanic Falls the bridge is also gone.

The Snowdrift People's Press states that the bridge at Norridgewock has been carried away. Thousands of acres of ice covered the interval at Bloomfield, and caused great damage to fences and land. Great Island was covered with water eight feet deep. Two men, Mr. Cyrus Williams, of the Forks, and Mr. Amasa Jones, of Anson, were drowned.

Schooner Lark, blown, picked up in Penobscot Bay, 20th ult., the roof of a store-house, containing a quantity of flour, corn, shingles, and lumber, and towed it into North West Harbor, Deer Isle. Capt. Haskell, of schooner Mohagan, states that he fell in with a swim-in, on O're's Head Bay, on 20th inst., but being alone, could not get it in.

Disasters by flood in New York.—Letters from Broome county, give melancholy details connected with the last flood. The former freshet destroyed all the bridges in that region. The loss of the Susquehanna bridge at Binghamton, the 'new bridge' across the Chenango, five miles above Binghamton, the Windsor, Nineveh, and Great Bend bridges, all expensive structures, owned by companies, will be severely felt. The losses by the last freshet involve a serious loss of human life. Frederick Hotchkiss, Esq., of Windsor, an old, wealthy and respected citizen, was drowned while attempting to cross a little creek. The next day the loss of the Western stage, with the driver and three passengers, all swept off in attempting to cross the Oswego creek. The fourth passenger escaped to tell the tale. The last item is reported loss of three or four little children of Eliza Thomas of Chelcoeton, on the Delaware, taken out on a cake of ice.—Albany Argus.

Freshet in N. York.—Some idea of the force of the water during the freshet, may be formed from the fact that the earth was displaced to the depth of thirty-seven feet below the bottom of the canal at one of the flats. Thirty thousand yards of earth will be required to fill this cavity and repair the embankments.—Schenectady Courier.

New Lecture Room.—The Lowell Institute will have, by an arrangement between Mr. W. Sears and Mr. A. Lowell, a large and commodious lecture-room in readiness by October next, which will accommodate 2500 persons. This new building is to be placed on the Boston street, and thus have access to three streets, Winter, Tremont, and Bromfield. The land has been purchased by Mr. Lowell, and a lease of the building will be taken for forty years by the Lowell Institute. It is not improbable the Academy of Music may also improve the large hall for their concert next season.—Post.

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Congress meets on the 23d of April, until which time all will be left to conjecture as to the course of this former department of Mexico.—A. O. Picayune.

Melancholy.—On Tuesday last, Captain Samuel Whitney, of Lincolnville, his wife, and a young lad, attempted to cross our bay in an open boat, on their way to Castine. By some means or other, the boat was capsized, and Captain Whitney and his wife were drowned. The boat started from Duck Trap, and were upon its side of the bay when the accident occurred. The body of Captain Whitney has not as yet been found. Mrs. Whitney had quite a young child, which we suppose must have been with her. About one year since, Captain Whitney retired from the firm of S. & J. P. Whitney of New Orleans, with an ample fortune. He came north, married a lady at Castine, and there was before him every prospect of a continued life of worldly enjoyment. Truly, in the midst of life, we are in death.

We learn since the above was a type, that the boat struck a cake of ice and stove in, the boatmen in a squall, about two o'clock, P. M. Capt. Whitney attempted to stop the leak with his coat, but could not succeed. He then directed himself of his clothing, and attempted to swim ashore with his wife, a distance of about half a mile. Before starting, he asked the boy if he could swim—the boy replied that he would try,

the boy, says, 'as he turned round to see where Captain Whitney was, he beheld him struggling with his wife to keep himself afloat water.' The child of Mrs. Whitney died some weeks ago.—Bellevue Signal.

The Eastern Freshets.—There has been a destructive freshet on the Penobscot river. Bangor has been deluged with water, and immense quantities of property, and it is feared some lives, have been lost. The estimated loss is very large. A correspondent of the Traveller, writing under date of Bangor, March 29, says:—Yesterday was a strange Sunday in this city—the churches comparatively empty, some of them not opened at all, and a large proportion of the people in the streets, and then looking upon the scenes that were passing—some exerting themselves to secure property in peril. The ice began to snap and move on Saturday and the water to rise. Saturday night about midnight, it moved a small distance and formed a jam, which brought the water back into the principal business streets, rising nearly to the tops of the doors of the buildings. At this point it remained, through the day, Sunday, till about 7 o'clock, P. M., when the ice started below and all moved out. And in spite of the water fell away, and retired into the sea. The ice of course carried much that was valuable with it. The mills at the Corporation (as it is called) which had been rented the previous season for \$15,000; the bridge across the Penobscot; and numerous buildings along the way of the sewer, lumber &c. were carried away.

The Androscoggin River.—On this great disaster have occurred. At Livermore Falls, the bridge and all the mills have been swept off, together with houses, stores, and other buildings, to the number of seventeen; another account says twenty-seven. We learn also that all the bridges between Topham and Livermore, with the exception of that of Lewiston, have been carried away. They are four in number, and were located at Little River, South West Bend, East Turner, and North Turner.

In Buckfield, the 'Hall Bridge,' about half a mile east of the village, was destroyed. In Paris, the bridge across the Falls was carried away. At Mechanic Falls the bridge is also gone.

The Snowdrift People's Press states that the bridge at Norridgewock has been carried away. Thousands of acres of ice covered the interval at Bloomfield, and caused great damage to fences and land. Great Island was covered with water eight feet deep. Two men, Mr. Cyrus Williams, of the Forks, and Mr. Amasa Jones, of Anson, were drowned.

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## DOMESTIC.

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